

WE CLAIM:

1. A data processing system for managing an affinity program for providing financial support payments to a designated beneficiary, said financial support payments being derived from a mutual fund unit holder's investment management activity, the system comprising:

computer processing means for processing data;

electronic storage means, in communication with the processing means, for storing and retrieving affinity program data for a plurality of mutual fund unit holders, the affinity program data for each holder including: number of mutual fund units held; current value of each mutual fund unit held; any mutual fund management fee portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder; and any mutual fund financial performance portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder; and

calculating means, in communication with the processing means, for calculating any financial support payment in favour of the beneficiary, said payment selected from the group consisting of: the product of multiplying the mutual fund management fee portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder by any mutual fund management fee paid by the mutual fund holder; and the product of multiplying the mutual fund financial performance portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder by any financial performance paid to the mutual fund holder.

2. A data processing system according to claim 1 wherein the mutual fund financial performance portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder is a fixed

percentage of the holder's financial performance.

3. A data processing system according to claim 1 wherein the mutual fund financial performance portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder is a fixed amount deducted from the holder's financial performance when financial performance exceeds a predetermined minimum amount.

4. A data processing system according to claim 1 wherein the mutual fund management fee portion dedicated to the beneficiary by the holder is a fixed percentage of the management fee paid by the mutual fund unit holder.